

## Mr Ivor Catt Report

### **INTRODUCTION**

Mr Catt was referred to the Mobility Centre in May 2009 by the DVLA, following a third party notification. He had been described as being "significantly unwell". His GP had also stated that he was "generally unwell" and therefore recommended a driving assessment.

Mr Catt was assessed by Sean Lawrence DSA ADI on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The entire assessment was supervised by Matthew Miller DSA ADI (Senior Driving Assessor).

Cognitive testing prior to the in-car assessment, indicated that Mr Catt had above average ability in the areas of information-processing speed, multi-tasking and short-term memory. We therefore anticipated that we would most likely witness a safe display of driving from him.

### **OFF-ROAD ASSESSMENT**

Matthew Miller DSA ADI was present during the in-car assessment and sat in the rear of the vehicle. Once Mr Catt was comfortable in the driver's seat his behaviour, to our surprise, changed dramatically compared to his behaviour during the initial assessment (in the office). Sean began to explain that he would direct Mr Catt around the off-road area using verbal instructions. Before Sean could finish his explanation, Mr Catt became very impatient, started the engine, and said "I know what you want me to do". He then lurched off aggressively, causing the wheels to spin. He performed a '3 point turn' aggressively, despite not being requested to do so. During this manoeuvre, Sean verbally requested him to stop as he reversed towards trees. He did respond and stopped sharply, he then aggressively selected 1<sup>st</sup> gear and sped off, once again causing the wheels to spin. Sean once again asked him to stop, which Mr Catt did by braking harshly.



Sean explained to Mr Catt that he was driving inappropriately and requested that he drive calmly. He then drove off again but continued to drive aggressively, which resulted in Sean continually asking him to slow. Sean once again asked Mr Catt to stop. He explained that his driving was inappropriate and requested, once again, that he drive safely and at an appropriate speed. He was then asked to perform an emergency stop exercise. As Sean began to explain the task, Mr Catt again lurched off very aggressively, built up speed and stamped aggressively on the brake pedal before the full explanation could be given.

Sean then pointed out that Mr Catt's driving style was inappropriate, especially as he was being assessed for his fitness to drive. Mr Catt then drove more appropriately within the confines of the off-road area.

## **ON-ROAD ASSESSMENT**

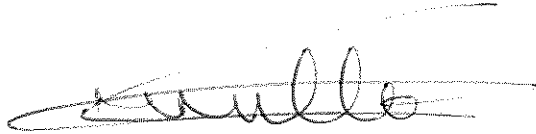
Mr Catt continually approached roundabouts too quickly, which on a few occasions resulted in Sean verbally instructing him to slow down; however he continued to drive in a very aggressive manner. On one occasion, Mr Catt caused another driver to brake harshly when he entered into an unsafe gap on a roundabout. As Mr Catt entered a major road from a T-junction he used the clutch and accelerator so aggressively that there was a burning smell from the clutch.

When asked to perform the parallel park exercise, Mr Catt became agitated and used the controls harshly. He mounted the kerb on three occasions and came very close to a tree when reversing.

Due to Mr Catt's highly inappropriate behaviour it was deemed unsafe to continue with the intended 14-mile route, which would have progressed to busy and complex traffic conditions. The assessment route therefore only covered 6 miles on quiet roads and two 40mph speed limit roads.

Once we returned to the Mobility Centre, Mr Catt was advised not to drive, as we did not consider him to be safe. He did not disagree at the time or contest the decision in any way at the time.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Miller', written over a horizontal line.

Date:

10/1/11

(Matthew Miller DSA ADI – Hertfordshire Action on Disability  
Mobility Centre Senior Driving Assessor)